

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00210 251609Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

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----- 119361

R 251431Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 694

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: STRIKE AT JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC SCHEME

1. STRIKE CALLED YESTERDAY AT MAJOR SITE OF MAMOTH JAMES BAY HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME. WORKERS VOTED TO REJECT CONTRACT OFFER, AND SOME 4,500 MEN NOW BEING EVACUATED BY AIR TO MONTREAL. AT PRESENT, ONLY LARGEST JAMES BAY SITE, LA GRANGE 2 (LG2), HAS BEEN AFFECTED, BUT STRIKE MAY SPREAD TO OTHER SMALLER SITES AS CONSTRUCTION WORKERS THROUGHOUT QUEBEC VOTE THIS WEEK ON UNION LEADERS RECOMMENDATION TO REJECT CONTRACT OFFERS AND TO STRIKE.

2. QLF COORDINATOR AT JAMES BAY, PIERRE RIVERIN, COMMENTED TO PRESS THAT WORKERS ON LG2 SITE ARE NOT DISSATISFIED WITH SALARIES. RATHER, THEY OBJECT TO "LOUSY WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS". HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING WORKERS AT LG3 SITE MAY VOTE AGAINST STRIKE AS FACILITIES FOR WORKERS THERE ARE MORE EXTENSIVE AND LESS CROWDED. NONETHELESS, THEY TOO PERSUMABLY WOULD ADHERE TO A GENERAL STRIKE OF ALL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN PROVINCE SHOULD ONE BE CALLED AS RESULT OF THIS WEEKS VOTING. MCNAMARA

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